



RESOLUTION TITLE: TO AMEND THE GASTON COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 3 – ANIMALS, ARTICLE I, SECTION 3-8 - RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTROL ANIMAL - TO CREATE SUBSECTION (C) - GUIDELINES FOR ANIMAL TETHERING (SECOND READING)

WHEREAS, Chapter 3 of the Gaston County Code of Ordinances concerns Animals; and,

WHEREAS, there is currently no provision in the Code of Ordinances that deals directly with the tethering of animals; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston County wishes to modify this subsection to provide guidance for animal owners and County law enforcement as to what constitutes the humane tethering of animals and how animal owners who choose to tether their animals should do so.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby modifies Chapter 3, Article I., Section 3-8 of the Gaston County Code of Ordinances and creates Subsection (c) as follows:

- (c) Tethering an animal is discouraged. If a pet owner chooses to tether an animal, he or she should be aware of the following list of non-exhaustive examples, all of which constitute ways to humanely tether an animal. Complying with these provisions does not in itself absolve an animal owner from being charged with or convicted of some other provision of state law or local ordinance, including but not limited to those relating to animal cruelty or nuisance animals.

Guidelines for Animal Tethering:

1. No animal under six (6) months of age should be tethered
2. The tether should not weigh more than ten percent (10%) of the weight of the animal. For example, a fifty (50) pound dog should not be tethered to a chain in excess of five (5) pounds, zero ounces
3. The tether should be at least ten (10) feet in length
4. The tether should not be affixed to a single, stationary point
5. The tether should connect by way of a double swivel at the animal's collar and also connect by way of a double swivel to the pulley system
6. The pulley system should be at least seven (7) feet in height

7. The area the tethered animal is located on should not be close to neighboring properties as to constitute a nuisance
8. The animal owner should periodically examine the collar and harness to ensure the collar has an appropriate fit and will not cause injury to the animal
9. The use of a chain, choke, or pinch collar, as a primary collar, is discouraged
10. The tethered animal should be able to freely enter a sheltered area, such as a dog house
11. The tethered animal should have access to sufficient food, water, and shade
12. There should not be excessive mud, dirt, debris or trash in the area the tethered animal has access to
13. The area the tethered animal has access to should be free from obstructions that could result in entanglement
14. Female animals in heat should be isolated in a manner where other animals do not have unrestricted breeding access

This Ordinance amendment shall be effective immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted the 10th day of November, 2020.

Tracy L. Philbeck, Chairman
Gaston County Board of Commissioners

Certification

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Gaston County Board of Commissioners, do hereby certify that the above, as filed with the Clerk to the Board, is a true and accurate copy of the ordinance amendment entitled *To Amend the Gaston County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3 – Animals, Article I, Section 3-8 - Responsibility to Control Animal – to Create Subsection (c) - Guidelines for Animal Tethering (Second Reading)*, as adopted by the Board of Commissioners on November 10, 2020 and to be set forth in the Gaston County Code of Ordinances upon adoption.

Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Board

SEAL